

BANGKOK, OCT. 14, REUTER -- TENS OF THOUSANDS OF RIOTING STUDENTS CLASHED WITH TROOPS AND POLICE USING TANKS AND TEAR GAS IN FIERCE BATTLES IN CENTRAL BANGKOK TODAY AND AT LEAST FOUR LARGE BUILDINGS WERE REPORTED TO BE ABLAZE.

THE CLASHES CAME A DAY AFTER A MASS PROTEST BY MORE THAN 200,000 PEOPLE, WHO MARCHED THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE THAI CAPITAL TO DEMAND THE RELEASE OF 13 PEOPLE ACCUSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PLOTTING A COUP.

HOSPITALS REPORTED AT LEAST THREE PEOPLE DEAD AND HUNDREDS WOUNDED IN THE FIGHTING, WHICH APPARENTLY SPREAD TO OTHER AREAS OF THE CITY AFTER STUDENTS TOOK OVER THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OFFICE NEAR THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY, CENTER OF THE SIX-DAY-OLD STUDENT PROTEST OVER THE ARRESTS.

YESTERDAY RADIO THAILAND REPORTED THAT DEPUTY PREMIER PRAPHAS CHARUSATHIEN HAD TOLD STUDENT LEADERS THE 13 WOULD BE UNCONDITIONALLY FREED IF THE MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION MARCH WAS CALLED OFF. HE ALSO PROMISED A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR THE COUNTRY WITHIN 12 MONTHS IN AN ATTEMPT TO QUELL THE STUDENT UNREST.  
MORE AS/JS/JK0641

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LEAD FIGHTING 2 BANGKOK

THE GOVERNMENT IMPOSED A CURFEW FROM 10 P.M. TO 5 A.M. LOCAL TIME AS TROOPS BACKED BY TANKS CONFRONTED THE STUDENTS IN THE AREA AROUND THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OFFICE. THE TROOPS OPENED UP ON THE THOUSANDS OF DEMONSTRATORS WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS APPARENTLY FIRING RUBBER BULLETS.

AT A FIRST AID CENTER WHERE DEMONSTRATORS WERE BEING TREATED FOR CUTS WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY RUBBER BULLETS OR FLYING GAS, STUDENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AT LEAST 10 STUDENTS WERE KILLED DURING THE FIGHTING THIS MORNING. THIS COULD NOT BE IMMEDIATELY CONFIRMED.

SHOOTING WAS ALSO HEARD FROM THE AREA NEAR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. SMOKE HUNG OVER LARGE AREAS OF THE CITY. A GOVERNMENT BUILDING ALONGSIDE THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE WAS IN FLAMES AND THREE OTHER BUILDINGS ON THE BROAD RAJDAMNOEN AVENUE WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN GUTTED BY FIRE.

MORE JS/JK0642

BANGKOK OCT. 14, REUTER - THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS SUBMITTED ITS RESIGNATION TO KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ, AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT MADE OVER RADIO THAILAND SAID TODAY. THE RESIGNATIONS FOLLOWED A DAY OF STUDENT RIOTING AND CLASHES WITH POLICE IN WHICH HUNDREDS WERE INJURED.  
REUTER AS/HG 0717